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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/611,649	07/07/2000	Matthew T. Uyttendaele	149497.2	6505

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EXAMINER

WU, JINGGE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/611,649

Applicant(s)

UYTTENDAELE ET AL.

Examiner

Jingge Wu

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-21 and 23-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-21 and 23-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 26, 2004 has been entered.

Applicants' amendment, filed on February 26, 2004 has been entered and made of record. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-2, 4, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by US 6081551 to Etoh.

As to claim 1, Etoh discloses a process of encoding frames of a panoramic video so as to allow selective decoding of the frame, comprising the process actions of:

segmenting each frame of the panoramic video (fig. 12, t0) into plural corresponding regions (fig. 12, p0-p6, col. 12 lines 28-41); and

separately encoding each region of the panoramic frames (col. 12 lines 51-56), wherein encoding the frame regions (ordinary frames) of the panoramic video comprises creating at least one data file comprising the data (fig. 11 and 14) associated with each frame region of each frame of panoramic video (col. 10 lines 23-42 and col. 12 lines 42-51) and an indicator (positions in fig. 14) appended to the data of each frame region that identifies its corresponding panoramic video frame and its location within that frame (Fig. 11 and 14, col. 10 lines 23-42, col. 12 lines 42-67, col. 16 lines 1-9).

As to claim 2, Etoh further discloses segmentation of the panoramic video into small regional frames pattern (fig. 12, p0-p6, col. 12 lines 28-41).

As to claim 4, the limitations are addressed with regard to claim 1.

As to claims 16-19, the claims are corresponding system, computer readable medium, and process claims to claims 1-2. The discussions are addressed with regard to claims 1-2

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 5, 7-15, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Etoh in view of US 6337708 to Furian et al. (a reference of record).

As to claim 3, Etoh does not expressly mention decoding only user selected portions of the frames.

Furain, in an analogous environment, further discloses the action of decoding only those encoded regions of each panoramic video frame needed to display a prescribed portion of the scene depicted by each frame (col. 12 lines 56-67).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the scheme of Furain in the method of Etoh in order to efficiently distribute panoramic image information (Furain, col. 1 lines 31-67).

As to claim 5, Furain further discloses for each frame, obtaining information, as to what portion of a scene depicted by the frame under consideration of user and sending only those frame portions to the user (col. 11 line 50-col. 12 line-58).

As to claims 7-10, Furain further discloses creating data file for each tile (tile streaming Fig. 4, 9 and 12), creating an indicator for each separated region (tile) (Fig. 4-6, 12, col. 5 line 17-col. 7 line 56, col. 12 lines 6-20), sending the data file from a server to client (Fig. 4).

As to claims 11-13, Furain further discloses a user can view only a portion of the panoramic video by identifying what portion the user wants to view, and the sever will send data files comprising the portion identified to the viewer on client side via two way communication network (col. 7 line 18-col. 8, col. 11-col. 12).

As to claim 14, Furain further discloses storage medium accessible by the viewer (Fig. 4 and 10).

As to claim 15, the limitations are addressed with regard to claims 11-13.

As to claims 20-21, 23-30, the limitations are addressed with regard to claims 3, 5, 7-15.

The arguments for combination of Etoh and Furian are addressed with regard to claim 3.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Jingge Wu whose telephone number is (703) 308-9588. He can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. The examiner can be also reached on second alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au, can be reached at (703) 308-6604.

The Working Group Fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Jingge Wu

Primary Patent Examiner

